

Message Text

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TAGS: PINS, PINR, CA

SUBJECT: PRIMIN RIDICULES REPORT U.S. PLANNED ARMED
OCCUPATION OF QUEBEC IN 1970

1. PRIMIN TRUDEAU DESCRIBED THE ALLEGATION OF A FORMER ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE, LESLIE J. BENNETT, IN THE TORONTO STAR SEPT 22, THAT U.S. TANKS WERE READY TO MOVE INTO CANADA AT THE TIME OF THE QUEBEC SEPARATIST CRISIS IN 1970 AS "ONE OF THE SILLIEST NEWS STORIES" OF THE YEAR. INTERVIEWED ON CBC TELEVISION, TRUDEAU DISMISSED THE REPORT, FLATLY DENYING ANY SUBSTANCE WHATEVER TO BENNETT'S CHARGE. THE CBC NEWSCASTS ALSO REPORTED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RUFUS SMITH'S DENIAL OF THE REPORT.

2. OTHER CANADIAN AND U.S. GOVERNMENT DENIALS OF THE COPYWRITED INTERVIEW BY STAR STAFF WRITER TOM HAZLITT WERE WIDELY PUBLISHED IN THE CANADIAN PRESS, INCLUDING:

A) EXTAFF MINISTER MITCHELL SHARP IN NEW YORK TO ADDRESS THE UNITED NATIONS WHO SAID THE REPORT SOUNDED LIKE GOOD FICTION; B) ENERGY MINISTER DONALD MACDONALD, DEFENCE MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE QUEBEC CRISIS, WHO SAID THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN "POLITICAL INSANITY" FOR THE U.S. TO EVEN CONSIDER A TROOP BUILDUP AT THE BORDER. HE SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF ANY BUILDUP OF U.S.

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TROOPS DURING THE CRISIS; C) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

RUFUS SMITH WHO WAS QUOTED IN THE TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL AND IN THE OTTAWA JOURNAL AND OTTAWA CITIZEN, SEPT 24, AS CHARACTERIZING THE REPORT "ABSOLUTEDLY FALSE"; D) RCMP COMMISSIONER W.L. HIGGITT WHO TOLD REPORTERS IN OTTAWA THAT THE ALLEGATIONS "SOUND LIKE THE RAVINGS OF A DISTURBED MIND."

3. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF THE DENIALS ALSO PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT BENNETT HAD BEEN GIVEN A MEDICAL DISCHARGE FROM THE RCMP IN 1972.

4. SPECIFICALLY, BENNETT CLAIMED THAT: A) DURING THE SEPARATIST CRISIS OF OCTOBER 1970 IN MONTREAL, THE CANADIAN SECURITY SERVICE HAD TO ASSIGN MUCH-NEEDED INVESTIGATORS TO THE TASK OF SHADOWING AGENTS OF THE US CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, WHO HAD INFILTRATED MONTREAL ON A LARGE SCALE AND WERE CARRYING ON OPERATIONS WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT; B) DURING THE SAME CRISIS THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MOVED TANKS AND OTHER HEAVY EQUIPMENT INTO POSITION SOUTH OF OTTAWA TO OFFSET A BUILDUP OF AMERICAN TANKS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT JUST SOUTH OF THE U.S. BORDER. BENNETT SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS INFORMED THAT SHOULD THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT FALL OR FAIL TO PRESERVE ORDER, THE AMERICANS WOULD MOVE INTO SOUTHERN QUEBEC TO PROTECT THEIR VITAL INTERESTS ON THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY; C) THE RCMP IS NOT IMMUNE TO SOVIET PENETRATION, AND THAT DURING THE 1960'S A SERVING MEMBER OF THE FORCE SOLD OUT TO THE KGB--THE SOVIET SECRET POLICE--FOR MONEY. HE WAS CAUGHT, QUIETLY CASHIERED FROM THE FORCE, AND IS NOW IN WESTERN CANADA.

5. BENNETT WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING HEAD OF THE RCMP'S ANTI-ESPIONAGE OPERATIONS UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT 14 MONTHS AGO. HE IS EMPLOYED BY A PRIVATE SECURITY FIRM IN JOHANNESBURG. SCHMIDT

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